

Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 32 | Min 22 | Humidity 67%

Partly Cloudy

Sensex 63,142

Nifty 18,726

Gold 59,856

Silver 72,000

Dollar 82.50

Euro 88.40

GBP 102.80



DUE TO THEM

Fix pay issues: ASHA workers

PAGE 2



EYES PEELED

Police want citizens' help to fight crime

PAGE 5

Part of park with undamaged play equipment in Doddanekundi lakebed goes underwater when it rains; equipment in dry area is broken and unusable

FOUL PLAY

Residents association trying to raise issue for over a decade now

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The pathetic condition of Virla Park situated on the Doddanekundi lakebed is proof that the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has no idea about Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The negligence shown by the BBMP officials and elected representatives amounts to violation of child rights.

It is said Virla Park was initially maintained by Vignana Nagar Lakeside Residents' Association that installed children's play equipment at the park more than a decade ago. Later the association found it difficult either to maintain or replace the rusted, broken or stolen play equipment due to financial constraints. The tragedy of this park is that a portion of the park where the equipment is broken and rusted, is dry as a bone, but another portion where the play equipment is in a good condition is completely water-logged. The ground level here is more than half feet lower than the surface of the remaining ground. As if the water logging is not enough to keep kids away, the BBMP has constructed a one-foot-high

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 >>



“The need of the hour is to maintain the existing children's parks in the city. Failure to maintain children's parks amounts to violation of child rights

— Nagasimha G Rao, Child Rights Trust

Glass is half full

Though Cauvery reservoirs' storage is way below what it was this time last year, BWSSB confident B'luru won't face drinking water shortage



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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The current water stock at all reservoirs in Karnataka has dropped much below last year's levels. The reservoir storage report by Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC) also shows that, unlike this time last year, none of the reservoirs are filled to even half their total capacity.

Regarding reservoirs in the Cauvery catchment area, the current storage of the Kabini is at 23% compared to 41.7% last year. Similarly, the storage capacity of KRS has also gone down from 54% last year to 23% this year. Live storage at Hemavati is 42% compared with 61% last year and storage at Harangi is 31% this year, compared with 70% last year.

Out of the four dams in the Cauvery basin, KRS has registered the highest drop of 58% in the water stock, followed by Harangi (56.7%), Kabini (47.2%), and Hemavati (31.5%).

Similarly, live storage at all reservoirs in the Krishna basin area ranges between 5% and 47%; all six reservoirs have

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7 >>

3 THINGS TO DO



01 Poetry for the soul

Over the past decade, Bengaluru has developed its own subculture of Hindi poetry. At this event, four well-known Bangalore-based poets: Lovely Goswami, Mohit Kataria, Anuradha Singh, and Sourav Roy will be reading from their recent books. This will be followed by discussion and book signing; and an open mike recital (Anjuman). **Where:** Atta Galatta
When: June 11, 3 pm; info: 9742876892



02 Nada yoga time!

Yoga is a divine practice which unifies the body and mind. When Yoga is combined with the beautiful practice of Sound Healing, it is definitely a blissful experience. You surely don't want to miss this. Join with your friends and family for Nada Yoga, a combination of yoga and sound healing and experience a rejuvenating morning. **Where:** Atta Galatta; **When:** June 11, 12 pm - 2 pm
Ticket: bookmyshow.com; info: 8217211808

03 What an act!

Bengaluru Theatre Foundation presents "Nagamandala", a timeless classic filled with rich metaphors and has captured everybody's imagination for decades. However, a Kannada production of Nagamandala has not been staged for almost two decades.

Bangalore Theatre Foundation is changing that by staging Nagamandala to celebrate Girish Karnad's 85th birth anniversary. Arjun Kabbina, a graduate of Rangayana returns to the stage after a successful stint last year with the popular Vidyarthi Bhavan. This bold production of Nagamandala, directed by Arjun Kabbina, takes a leaf out of Karnad's book and uses Yellamma's songs as a narrative anchor for the story. **Where:** Prestige Srihari Khoday Performance Arts Centre, Konanakunte; **When:** June 9 - 11, multiple slots; **Ticket:** bookmyshow.com
Contact: 9380270128



Mermaid to the rescue

Ahead of World Ocean Day, a PETA activist dresses as a mermaid to encourage veganism.

PIC: KAUSHIK JN

Fighting to increase their monthly dues

Paid Rs 5,000 per month, ASHA workers want hike in wages, more benefits

Iffath Fathima
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Karnataka State United ASHA Workers Association, affiliated to All India United Trade Union Center (AIUTUC), submitted a memorandum to the Health Minister, Dinesh Gundurao, to increase the monthly honorarium of the ASHA workers and to provide extra added benefits that the workers have been long demanding for.

According to the National Health Mission, the ASHA workers are the first port of call for any health-related demands of deprived sections of the population, especially women and children, who find it difficult to access health services.

Further, they serve as health activists in the community and spread awareness on health and its social determinants and mobilise the community towards local health planning and increased utilisation and accountability of the existing health services. They counsel women on birth preparedness, importance of safe delivery, breast-feeding and complementary feeding, immunisation and more.

For years, the ASHA workers have been getting a minimum wage and want an increase. Currently they get paid Rs 5,000 per month. The ASHA workers are now demanding an increase in their honorarium to Rs 15,000. They pointed out that their daily workload is high and they



A protest spearheaded by ASHA workers in Mysuru (file image)

should be paid more.

K Somashekar Yadgiri, President of ASHA union said, "The present government had assured in the manifesto that they will give Rs 8,000 per month. We are asking them to release the amount now. But our demand is Rs 15,000. Sticking by their manifesto they can have Rs 8,000 initially released and then increase it to Rs 15,000."

The memorandum also pointed out that when the health and nutrition survey is conducted, ASHA workers should record the data in their phones. However, many of them do not have phones. Without it, the survey cannot be completed, they said.

The workers demanded an immediate resolution to issues concerning the reproductive and child health (RCH) web portal which has resulted in non-payment of remuneration.

Further, health insurance and travel allowance were asked in the memorandum. "We are demanding health insurance for the workers and Rs 3 lakh retirement benefit for them."

For workers who are from economically strapped families and are the only breadwinners of the family, in case of serious medical emergencies, should be given three months' leave and also be given free treatment from the state government,"

“ We want health insurance for the workers and Rs 3 lakh for retirement benefits

— K Somashekar Yadgiri, President, ASHA union

said Somashekar.

The workers also pointed out that 90 per cent of them are working in rural area and 10 per cent in the urban areas.

However, as the urban area workers have to cover a larger population and live in the city where the standard of living is high, they require more money to be given.

Man loses over ₹1 crore in stock scam

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A 63-year-old man was allegedly cheated by a stock broker company of Rs 1 crore and 23 lakh. The victim, Stuart Clarke, has filed a complaint against a couple who used to run the company, alleging misappropriation, fraud, and cheating by the company. "When my mother passed away, she left me with inheritance money, and I added my life savings to invest

in stocks after trusting the company's people. Since January 2018, I have had a brokerage account and agreement with the company, and I purchased shares worth Rs 1,62,22,547," he said.

Over the years, the couple gained his trust, and he used to call them for every query. They had an app, and they informed him that everything was being updated on the app and he didn't need to worry.

"I used to check the app every day, and everything seemed fine," he added.

Later, the company informed the victim that his shares were being transferred to another company. When he installed the app for the new company, it showed Rs 0 for his shares. "The app stopped functioning a few months ago, and when I asked about my portfolio with them, they kept telling me that I was enjoying zero brokerage, my portfolio was being held safely with the company, and only the newly traded shares would reflect in the new company's app," he explained.

Clarke then transferred around

Rs 7 lakh to the new company and started trading with them. Later this year, in May, when Clarke asked the firm if he wanted to sell his shares and invest elsewhere, he was refused. Then, when he checked his stocks again, he was shocked to see there were a number of discrepancies in 16 companies, and especially huge discrepancies in his 'high-valued' shares.

According to the sources, multiple complaints have been recorded against the same company in the last few months, with serious allegations



of unauthorised trading and misappropriation of funds. The police said that state recorded 466 cases under economic offences in April 2023.



'Do not stop vehicles if there's no visible violation'

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The police are back on the roads, stopping motorists to check for violations. However, DG IGP Alok Mohan has issued fresh guidelines asking cops not to stop motorists if there are no visible violations.

According to the guidelines, cops should not stop any vehicles where visible violation is not found.

Mohan said, "The traffic police need to be deployed at their respective spots even before peak hour traffic starts. The traffic police personnel should be on patrol in their designated areas before peak traffic hours. This proactive measure allows the traffic police to gather real-time information about the traffic situation in their respective areas.

"To ensure transparency and accountability, traffic police are required to wear body-worn cameras whenever possible. This measure aims to provide concrete evidence in cases of disputes or complaints. The guidelines emphasise taking strict action against vehicles parked in restricted parking areas. In such cases, the vehicles should be immediately cleared to facilitate smooth traffic flow," he explained.

Furthermore, he said that

the Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) and other officers have been authorised to take action against traffic violations based on their discretion and within the scope of their authority. This provision allows for more efficient handling of traffic violation cases.

The traffic police need to be deployed at their respective spots even before peak hour —DG IGP Alok Mohan

The order states that it should not be used as a means to generate statistics or pressure the general public into paying fines to end traffic violations. Violators should be given the option to choose the legal process available to them and not be coerced into immediate payment of fines.

Stressing the importance of evidence-based enforcement, Mohan added that there is a need for high efficiency and error-free traffic enforcement by all police officers. The guidelines highlight that the implementation of this transparent system has gained acceptance among the public and has proven to be flawless, with legal proceedings initiated only when violations are clearly visible.



World Brain Tumor Day 2023

Understanding Brain Tumors: Shining a Light on World Brain Tumor Day.

Every year 8th of June is celebrated as world brain tumor day in medical community. On this occasion, we come together to raise awareness about brain tumors, their impact on individuals and families, and the ongoing efforts in research and treatment. In this article, we aim to shed light on brain tumors, their symptoms, diagnosis, treatment options, and the importance of support for those affected by this condition.

The International Association of Cancer Registry reported that there are over 28000 cases of brain tumors reported in India each year and more than 24000 people reportedly die due to brain tumors annually. The most common primary brain tumor type in adults are Meningiomas (41%) followed by Gliomas (37%).

Brain tumor symptoms can vary depending on the tumor's location, size, and rate of growth. Common symptoms include persistent headaches, seizures, vomiting, disturbances in vision or hearing, cognitive difficulties, memory problems, and personality changes. If someone experiences these symptoms, it is crucial to seek medical attention for a proper diagnosis.

Diagnostic methods may include detailed clinical evaluation, imaging tests such as magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and computed

BGS Gleneagles Global Hospital
KENGIRI, BENGALURU

Brain tumors are abnormal growth of cells within the brain. They can arise from brain tissue itself or spread from other parts of the body. There are two primary types of brain tumors: benign (non-cancerous) and malignant (cancerous). While benign tumors tend to grow slowly and are less likely to invade surrounding tissues, malignant tumors are aggressive, with the potential to spread to other parts of the brain or spinal cord.

tomography (CT) scans.

Brain tumor treatment depends on several factors, including tumor type, location, and the overall health of the patient. Treatment options often involve a multidisciplinary approach and may include surgery, radiation therapy, chemotherapy, targeted therapy, or a combination of these. The primary goal is to remove or shrink the tumor while preserving brain function and improving the patient's quality of life.

Treatment plans are tailored to each individual's unique circumstances. Medical research continues to make significant strides in understanding brain tumors. Ongoing studies focus on improved diagnostic techniques,

targeted therapies, and innovative treatment options. Collaborative efforts between researchers, healthcare professionals, and advocacy groups aim to enhance early detection, develop more effective treatments, and ultimately find a cure.

The impact of a brain tumor extends beyond the patient themselves; it affects their families, friends, and caregivers. On World Brain Tumor Day, it is crucial to highlight the importance of support systems for individuals facing this diagnosis. Support groups, counseling services, and online communities provide valuable emotional and informational support. Additionally, it is essential to raise awareness about brain tumors to foster understanding and empathy in society.

On World Brain Tumor Day, we stand united to spread awareness, support patients and their loved ones, and encourage ongoing research. By increasing knowledge about brain tumors, we can promote early detection, timely treatment, and better outcomes for those affected by this condition. Let us work together to create a world where brain tumors are preventable, manageable, and one day, curable.

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For booking appointment:

📞 **080-26255555**

For Emergency:

📞 **080-24242424**



One-stop trash tool in city

Over 100 blackspots recorded in city; NGO comes up with tool to tackle it

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

In an effort to combat air pollution and solid waste management issues plaguing the city, Jhatkaa.org, a non-governmental organisation (NGO), has launched a tool that enables citizens to report incidents of garbage dumping and burning as a pilot project. Within a month and a half, over 112 responses regarding black spots were reported from Yeshwanthpur to Sarjapur.

The volunteers revealed that the primary concern in Bengaluru is unsegregated garbage that accumulates in street corners and is often burned, contributing to long-term air pollution. Citizen engagement is crucial to address this issue. "Some of the issues that we have observed among citizens are a lack of awareness about waste segregation, irregular pickup times by BBMP vehicles, and lack of awareness regarding commercial establishment waste disposal. To combat this issue, decentralising waste management in the vicinity is crucial for creating change. The tool helps citizens report garbage in their vicinity," said a volunteer from jhatkaa.org.

The reports received by the NGO are due to the effort and involvement of community groups like The Indian Ploggers Army, Zero Waste community group, individual volunteers, and colleges.

Highlighting the predominant waste issue observed during cleanups, Jhatkaa.org dedicated World Environment Day to raising awareness about plastic waste. On June 4, in partnership with three dedicated volunteers, the NGO hosted an awareness session at Church Street. The event aimed to educate citizens



A cow eating garbage from a blackspot in Frazer Town; Volunteers said the primary concern in Bengaluru is unsegregated garbage that accumulates in corners and is often burned, contributing to air pollution

about the detrimental effects of plastic waste and encouraged them to report garbage accumulation. Attendees were also encouraged to take a pledge to reduce, remove, and reuse plastic items in their everyday lives.

One citizen at the event said, "We cannot ignore the pressing issue of garbage dumping and burning in our city."

Garbage segregation and proper waste management are essential for a sustainable future. It is through collaborative action and community engagement that we can bring about meaningful change and create a cleaner, healthier environment for all," said Sanjay.

Garbage has been piling up near our neighbourhood for years. We had no idea who to contact to report the problem

— Resident of Jayanagar

During the one-and-a-half-hour-long event, Jhatkaa.org engaged with 100 citizens, they spoke to 25 individuals committing to the pledge, and 35 citizens availing the "Clean Bengaluru" reporting tool to report garbage-related incidents.

The organisation is now looking

forward to creating more squads to carry out cleanups in the city and will further connect with the BBMP to create an impact by clearing up spots.

A resident from Jayanagar 3rd block said, "Garbage has been piling up near our neighbourhood for years. We had no idea who to contact to report the problem. The tool helped us report the issue, and we are now hoping for the place to be cleaned up."

We have seen regular cleanups in Shalini Grounds by the Ploggers Army. By reporting these incidents and adopting sustainable practices, we can make a positive impact on our environment."

'BBMP has not done a single thing to improve park situation'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Condition of play equipment

concrete wall around the area so as to ensure children cannot access it.

"I have been pursuing the matter with the elected representatives and the BBMP officials for more than a decade seeking funds to replace the existing play equipment that is unfit

for use. There has been no progress on the request except for me attending meetings for this purpose," said Vignana Nagar Lakeside Residents' Association president S Viswanath.

He said that he wrote a letter to Bairathi Basavaraj, KR Puram MLA, seeking help for the development of the park but nothing has been done till date. "Vignana Nagar ward corporator SG Nagaraj had provided children with play equipment four years ago, but children could not access it during the monsoon due to water logging," he said.

Vignana Nagar Lakeside Residents' Association secretary Sreejit said the BBMP officials have not done anything to develop the children's park.

The Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) gives a specific right for all children to have rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to their age and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.

"The condition of the children's park is pathetic. Children cannot use the play equipment due to water-logging. As of now, children do not have many parks to play in. The need of the hour is to maintain the existing children's parks in the city. Failure of maintaining children's parks amounts to violation of child rights. I appeal to the authorities concerned to maintain Virla Park properly for the benefit of children," said Child Rights Trust Director Nagasimha G Rao.

S Manju, a member of Karnataka State Commission for Child Rights, said that due to covid 19 pandemic and restrictions imposed by the government, children's right to play has been curtailed for two long years and as a result children are psychologically disturbed.

Physical exercise is a must for good health and concentration in studies, she said.

"To reduce obesity too, physical exercise is a must. As schools have commenced, children are occupied

with studies and extra curricular activities. Most of the schools do not have playground and the time allocated in school is not sufficient for physical exercise

BBMP maintains playgrounds in and around Bengaluru. Whether the playground is well equipped or well maintained is a matter of concern. If the parks are flooded with rainwater or stinking or hygiene is not maintained, then the purpose is not served. Our authorities must wake up and ensure that the playground is well maintained for children to spend time to destress themselves and also for exercise," she said.

Vignana Nagar ward former corporator Nagaraj said the BBMP ward engineer is bound to maintain the children's play equipment installed four years ago. "We spent around Rs 30 lakh for installing the equipment," said Nagaraj.

Meanwhile, BBMP assistant engineer (Vignana Nagar ward) Keshava Murthy assured BM that he would visit the park shortly.

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Move the cart Nandini Layout



This cart has been parked at the busy five-road junction in Jai Maruthi Nagar, Nandini Layout for months and obstructs traffic.

Maintenance check Kempapura



The Kempapura Bus Stand has been in a terrible condition for many months.

Dying tree Thirumenahalli Lake Road



There is a neem tree on Thirumenahalli Lake Road, opposite KNS College bus stand, along the Nagawara-Yelahanka bus route. It appears to be suffocating due to the bitumen/stone mix around its trunk.

Community service but some students don't care

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

In line with the guidelines issued by the University Grants Commission (UGC), many higher education institutes in the city have devised community service programs for their undergraduate and post-graduate students. The idea is to foster a sense of social responsibility in the young generation and encourage community engagement.

These programs require students to engage with organisations working at the grassroots level and complete a minimum number of volunteer hours.

However, many city-based organisations providing such opportunities to students say there is a growing trend of students from reputed institutes looking to buy their way out of the time commitment.

"We get students from various reputable colleges and universities in the city for internships in the field of ecology and environment conservation. Most of them come with the requirement of 60 volunteer hours or 45 days. After completion, the students are expected to submit a report based on activities taken up during the program, following which, we provide a certificate. However, recently, we are flooded with calls by students who want to buy internship certificates without putting in the



required volunteering time," said the founder of an organisation working towards environment and wildlife conservation.

The organisations say most of the students are not interested in spend-

ing hours conducting field-based research or volunteering work. Even if they join a team, they do it half-heartedly.

"They are only concerned about the certification which is mandatory for them to obtain a degree. While the requirement of certain hours as field work is on paper, all the students do not complete that requirement," said a representative of another conservation-based non-governmental organisation that receives students from various city-based institutes and universities.

Organisations say while the programs have a lot of potential, vigilance by the institutes is lacking. Educational institutions must monitor the students and seek daily reports

of such internships. Such scrutiny is missing barring in the case of students with social work backgrounds.

Some also suggest having ethic-building programs in higher education institutions.

"Currently, students approach us with a letter from their college or university stating the time duration of the internship program. While the initiative is good, colleges and universities must be more vigilant toward students' activity. As of now, only students with MSW backgrounds undergo that level of scrutiny by their institutions. For the rest of them, no one reaches out to us to cross-check the progress they are making or the number of hours they are putting in," said another city-based NGO.

In Avalahalli, cops issue crime alert

Amid rise in crime incidents, police issue dos and don'ts for residents



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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Avalahalli Police have issued a circular advising people to install cameras in shops, commercial establishments and houses. This comes after an increasing crime rate in the area, they say.

The police said that in order to prevent crimes in the public places where people congregate, it is suggested that residents in the neighbourhood install HD cameras in commercial companies, shops, hospitals, schools, factories or any other shop establishment for safety reasons.

They also advised the public to not put padlocks and instead install indoor locks. "When you are going outside do not put a padlock to your gate from outside. If you lock it from outside it is a message to thieves that nobody is in the house and this increases the chances of a break-in," said the police.

Other safety instructions were also given by the police: do not keep wardrobe

“These criminals are mostly teenagers who are involved in drug peddling and petty thefts. People should be careful

—A police inspector

keys below the clothes, ensure sufficient lighting facility surrounding the house and shops, and not click links sent by unknown numbers in SMS/WhatsApp.

The police inspector of Avalahalli Police informed Bangalore Mirror that this circular comes after repeated bike thefts and break-ins being reported in the area. "Recently we caught the accused for two different theft cases and we are following up on other cases. In the meantime, we have advised people to be careful. These culprits are mostly teenagers who are involved in drug peddling and petty thefts. We have also recorded some serious crimes as well. There is a significant

increase in house break-ins and robbery cases and we are on a look out to catch the miscreants," he said.

He added that police have identified gangs which comprise natives from Nepal, who work in restaurants or as security guards; the police have noticed a pattern that these gangs are actively involved in robbery cases. "In a recent arrest in a house theft case, the servant working in the victim's house and he belonged to one of the Nepali gangs," said the police.

A resident of the area, Sathvik, added that he has noticed people in the area have begun to install CCTV cameras in their house. "Some people near my house have put up cameras, while some are not doing it. We have not noticed any major crime happening in the area, but cases of minor chain snatching or phone theft are always around," he said.

According to the latest Karnataka state police data of April 2023, Bengaluru recorded 37 cases of robbery, 11 cases of chain snatching, 19 cases of day time burglary, 62 cases of night time burglary and 738 cases of theft in a month.

Green Vehicle Expo

The Fourth Edition of Green Vehicle Expo will be organised at Bengaluru International Exhibition Centre (BIEC). The three-day expo will be inaugurated by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on June 16. Minister for Energy KJ George will attend the event.

The Green Vehicle Expo will focus on the electric vehicle industry as well as the renewable energy sector which is fast becoming the mainline source of energy supply and is in line with the commitment of the government of India to provide sustainable and clean forms of energy for day-to-day consumption as well as mobility.

The exhibition is supported by the Karnataka Government, the Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industries, Karnataka Renewable Energy System Manufacturers Association, Karnataka Small Scale Industries Association, Bengaluru Auto Dealers' Association, Hubli Automobile Dealers' Association, and Karnataka Two Wheelers Workshop Owners and Technicians' Association.

The three-day expo is expected to witness 15,000 visitors and will have more than 100 exhibitors which include players like Ather Energy, Microtek, Lucas TVS, Hykon India showcasing more than 700 different products.

The event will focus on the electric vehicle industry & renewable energy

Tot run over

A four-year-old boy died after being run over by a water tractor at CK Palya in Anekal taluk on Wednesday.

A tractor ran over Bhuvan who had gone to a bakery to buy ice cream with his brother. According to the sources, the driver was driving the water tanker under the influence of alcohol.

The water tractor hit Bhuvan on his head and he was seriously injured and was immediately rushed to the hospital. However, the injured boy died before reaching the hospital. After the incident, the driver fled the scene.

Bannerghatta police visited the site and conducted an investigation.

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Energy Minister KJ George clears confusion surrounding new scheme for which registration begins on June 15

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As there have been numerous confusions regarding the Gruha Jyoti project, which provides free power to households, Bangalore Mirror caught up with Energy Minister KJ George, who has clarified the queries related to Gruha Jyoti, including who can apply and how to apply...

How will the consumption data be calculated?

Energy Minister KJ George said the domestic consumer's data for the previous year will be assessed by taking an average per month with an additional 10 per cent. The government is currently in the process of calculating this data and will soon calculate the average consumption data for each revenue register (RR)-numbered meter.

Who is eligible?

Minister George clarified that every individual is eligible for the scheme. To avail the benefits, consumers must link their Aadhaar card with their RR number. Tenants are required to provide proof of tenancy.

How to apply?

The application for the Gruha Jyoti scheme can be submitted through the Seva Sindhu portal. For those who are not tech-savvy, they can visit the nearest Bangalore One, Karnataka One, or Grama One for assisted services.

When can one apply?

The registration process will begin on June 15, with the benefits applicable to the July bill, which will be generated on August 1. This means consumers have to pay the June bill, which will be generated in July. However, the registration process closes on July 5. This means that residents can only apply between June 15 and July 5.



BM's report on June 7 on concerns regarding how tenants can claim benefits under the scheme

The Seva Sindhu platform offers over 200 services and can be accessed through computers and mobile devices. Applicants are required to provide their Aadhaar number for validation and their BESCOM account number. Owners do not need



Out of the 2.16 crore consumers in Karnataka, approximately 2.14 crore fall under the category of consuming less than 200 units per month, making them eligible for the scheme

to provide additional details, while tenants must submit documents such as sale deeds, lease deeds, or other proof of tenancy. In case of any difficulty accessing the portal, Bangalore One centres can be visited.

How is the zero bill calculated?

Consumers whose consumption aligns with the average consumption of the previous year will receive a zero bill. However, if their bill exceeds the average, they will be required to pay for the additional units consumed (differential units). It is important to note that this should still be within the 200-unit limit. If consumption exceeds 200 units, the entire bill amount must be paid, as the Gruha Jyoti scheme will not be applicable.

For example, if a consumer's average monthly consumption is 70 units, he will receive 77 units of free power per month (by calculating 10 per cent extra power). Assuming his monthly consumption amounts to 100 units, such a consumer has to pay for 23 units (100 - 77 = 23).

How many consumers will benefit?

Out of the 2.16 crore consumers in Karnataka, approximately 2.14 crore fall under the category of consuming less than 200 units per month, making them eligible for the scheme. The total power consumption in Karnataka is 14,852 million units, averaging around 53 units per RR meter per month. Minister George clarified that if a consumer's one-year average consumption reaches 198 units, they will not receive the additional benefit of 10 per cent as it exceeds the 200-unit ceiling. Therefore, the benefit is applicable only if the monthly consumption remains below 200 units.

Will the monthly average be revised?

As of now, the average consumption for the previous year is being calculated. The decision regarding the re-

Frequently Asked Questions about Gruha Jyoti

Q: Should I pay any fees while applying?

A: No fees are required to register on the Seva Sindhu website.

Q: Should I pay the electricity bill for the month of June?

A: Yes. The benefits of the scheme will be applicable from the meter reading date on or after August 1, 2023 (for July 2023 consumption).

Q: I have more than one electricity meter. Will I be eligible for all meters?

A: No. Only one meter per household is eligible for the scheme.

Q: After applying, will I get any acknowledgement?

A: Yes, an acknowledgement message from Seva Sindhu will be sent to the registered consumer via email or SMS.

Q: I have already applied for this scheme. When will the benefits start accruing to my account?

A: The bill issued in July 2023 will have to be paid without subsidy. The benefits of the scheme will be applicable from the meter reading

date on or after August 1, 2023 (for July 2023 consumption).

Q: I am the owner of a shop. Can I also apply for the benefit of the scheme for my commercial establishment?

A: No. The scheme is only for residential households.

Q: Where can I find my account ID?

A: It is available on any of your monthly electricity bills.

Q: What if I have arrears? Am I still eligible for the scheme?

A: Yes. However, you must clear your arrears up to June 30, 2023 within three months. Otherwise, your connection will be disconnected.

Q: The bill is in my late father's name. How can I apply for this scheme?

A: You need to transfer the connection to your name and then apply for the scheme. The name transfer can be done at the Jana Snehi Vidyuth service counters at all sub-divisions.

vision of average consumption will be made in the future. The government possesses data for every consumer and will calculate accordingly.

Can the server handle extra traffic?

Efforts are being made to create additional server support to handle five times the traffic to prevent server crashes. This enhanced server is expected to support five to ten lakh applications per day.

It is important to note that there is no Android or iPhone app available for Seva Sindhu, and the platform can only be accessed through web services.

How can tenants apply?

If the tenant's Aadhaar card address is

the same as the residency, then there is no need for any other proof. However, if the Aadhaar address is different, then tenants need to provide a copy of the lease agreement or voter ID. Registered or notary-registered lease agreements are not mandatory. Other documents, like a driving licence, passport, or ration card, are also applicable.

However, RR numbers and Aadhaar cards are mandatory. In the event that any complaints of fraudulent activity arise, an investigation will be conducted.

How can apartment dwellers apply?

Regarding apartment complexes, if the RR number is in the builder's name, apartment dwellers can pro-

“The domestic consumer's data for the previous year will be assessed by taking an average per month with an additional 10 per cent

— KJ George, Energy Minister

vide proof of residency to avail the scheme's benefits.

Is it applicable if the Aadhaar card address is outside the state?

George said that even individuals from other states residing in Bengaluru can apply for the scheme if they provide proof of their local address.

Are B-khata holders eligible?

The eligibility criteria are based on RR numbers rather than whether the residents possess a A Khata or a B Khata. Any discrepancies will be subject to vigilance.

Reason for current delay in BESCOM Bills

Responding to complaints regarding the delayed distribution of bills, Minister George explained that there was some confusion during the introduction of the Gruha Jyoti scheme, causing the delay. However, now that clarity has been obtained, the issuance of bills will resume shortly.

Recent relocations or house shifts

Regarding individuals who have recently moved to a rental property or a new house, Minister George mentioned that these matters were not discussed in the previous cabinet meeting.

As these issues have now arisen, they will be revisited in the cabinet, and the Chief Minister's approval will be sought. Currently, only 12 months' data is being considered, and a final decision will be made regarding these cases.

Financial burden on distribution companies

The provision of free electricity bills will amount to approximately Rs 13,000 crore annually. Minister George assured that the state government would reimburse the power companies to prevent any financial burden.

Absorbing tariff hike

Regarding the recent increase in power prices, Minister George acknowledged that the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) has implemented a price hike. However, he stressed that the Gruha Jyoti scheme will still provide free power, and any increase in the price per unit in the future will be covered under the scheme. In other words, eligible consumers will continue to receive their entitled units of free power regardless of the price increase.

Will this lead to power cuts?

George said there is currently no power shortage in the state, and power companies possess the capacity to handle the additional demand. "Moreover, our focus is on enhancing power generation from renewable sources to ensure cost-effective production," he said.

Pay more for water?

State government mulls giving struggling BWSSB green signal to increase water tariffs that have not been revised since 2014

Sridhar.Vivan
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TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

The state government may be offering free power, but it is now considering allowing the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) to increase water tariffs. Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, who also holds the Bengaluru development portfolio, stated that the financial condition of the BWSSB was critical and therefore a revision of tariffs was necessary. The BWSSB currently supplies 1,400 MLD of water on a daily basis.

The water tariffs have not been revised since 2014, and the increase has been postponed year after year, said Shivakumar. The situation has reached a point where the BWSSB is unable to pay salaries to its employees or settle the power bill. He said there is a need to find solutions as soon as possible. In addition to raising power tariffs, measures could include addressing illegal connections. Previously, there were 48 per cent illegal connections, which have now decreased to 28 per cent. "Nevertheless, we still need to regularise these connections. Although BESCOM offers power at an affordable price (Rs 5.50 per unit), the BWSSB is forced to allocate a significant portion of its funds for power purchases. I have informed the BWSSB about the need for resource mobilisation. We must replace old pipes to minimise water wastage, which may also increase water pressure. There have been complaints about sewage mixing with water in some areas. Our priority is to provide clean drinking water and ensure its quality. We will engage in discussions with legislators and parliamentarians regarding the tariff



File photo of a BWSSB water tanker; Sources indicate that BWSSB has set minimum tariff at Rs 56

“The lockdown was unprecedented and we did not want to burden people at that time. However, as life has returned to pre-covid levels, we are now pushing for the tariff hike – BWSSB official

revision as any organisation cannot sustain financially without revising tariffs for over nine years,” he said.

Meanwhile, a senior BWSSB official said that due to rising input costs, it has become increasingly difficult to supply water at the current tariff. This is why they are seeking an annual increase in tariffs. “Currently, the KERC permits ESCOMs to revise their tariffs and we also want the same system

of regular tariff hikes,” they added.

Sources indicate that the BWSSB has set the minimum tariff at Rs 56. The board currently charges Rs 7 per thousand litres (up to eight thousand litres) for residential purposes. There is now a proposal to increase this by 16 per cent for residential purposes. For commercial purposes, the water board currently charges Rs 50 per thousand litres (up to a

10,000-litre slab). There is a proposal to increase this by 21 per cent.

The BWSSB had previously proposed a tariff hike in 2019, but the proposal was put on hold due to the covid outbreak and subsequent lockdowns. An official said, “The lockdown was unprecedented and we did not want to burden people, so we did not revise the tariffs at that time.

However, as life has returned to pre-covid levels, we are now pushing for the tariff hike. During 2013-14, we paid Rs 390 crore for electricity bills. In 2020-21, we paid Rs 669 crore. Over the past eight years, the tariff has increased by 79.2 per cent.”

Cauvery worse off, but supply unaffected

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

registered a significant drop in water stock.

According to the former director of KSNDMC, G S Srinivasa Reddy, this drop in water level in reservoirs can be attributed to the rain deficit month of May this year.

“In May this year, the Malnad and coastal areas of Karnataka witnessed 56% and 33% deficit in rainfall respectively. This was not the case last year and by May 2022, most of the reservoirs had received inflow due to good rainfall,” said Dr Reddy.

However, he added that although the water levels in the reservoirs are lower this year, the readings are roughly in line with the last 15 years’ average storage data of June.

“While there is a drop in live water storage compared with last year, if we compare it with the last 15 years’ average, it is more or less the same. Last year’s readings can be attributed to the exceptional monsoon of 2021. We received above-average rainfall in October and November as well. Apart from good inflow, continuous rainfall also brings down the demand. Not only groundwater but irrigation usage goes down too,” added Dr Reddy.

Officials from the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) said while the current storage capacity of Cauvery reservoirs, which are an important source of water to Bengaluru, is lower than last year, there is still an adequate amount to meet drinking water needs of the city till June. They also informed that the board has already written to the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) to keep aside a certain quantity of water reserved for the state capital.

“We have written to CWMA to keep aside water for Bengaluru’s requirement. The city will need nearly 3 TMC of drinking water supply by June. Moreover, the city’s water requirements are met from Kabini and KRS reservoirs and there is adequate storage in both dams. While KRS currently has 11.21 TMC, Kabini has 4.30 TMC. We are also expecting the southwest monsoon to hit Wayanad soon. Once that happens, Kabini will receive enough water,” said the official.

The total capacity of the Cauvery Basin reservoirs is 114.57 TMC and they are currently holding 33.78 TMC of water. Last year, this amount was 63.82 TMC.

Similarly, the total capacity of Krishna Basin reservoirs is 422.45 TMC. While the current storage is 79.08 TMC, it was 168.42 TMC last year.

World food safety day brings reality checks

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In Karnataka, 772 cases have been filed over food safety and 1,600 people have been booked. This, and several other pertinent points, were raised by KV Srinidhi, Food Safety Officer, on World Food Safety Day, celebrated on June 7 every year.

Explaining the history of food safety in India, Srinidhi said, “The first act for food safety called The Prevention of Food Adulteration Act was established in 1954, which was known as KPFA in Karnataka. There were separate acts for various states like Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Karnataka.

But in 2006, the government decided to merge them into one sin-

gle act for all of India - the FSSAI Act.”

Explaining the structure of the organisation, he said that each state has a food commissioner under whom there is a joint commissioner squad and deputy commissioner admin. At the zilla level, there are designated officers, and at the taluk level, there are food safety officers who act as registration officers. “The food safety officers visit shops to collect legal samples, of which we take four packets of half-a-kilogram each. The survey sample consists of one packet, which is taken to a survey lab. There are four survey labs in the state: Bengaluru, Mysuru, Belgaum, and Gulbarga. The samples must be submitted at these stations,” he said. Once adulteration is found in the food product, a notice is issued to the food supplier, manufacturer, and distributor. The legal samples are pre-



In Karnataka, 772 cases have been filed over food safety

served with the designated officer. If the sample is found to be adulterated in the lab as well, a case is registered.

He stated that misbranding, substandard, and unsafe are the three types of adulteration. “Misbranding refers to label declarations, which include the packaging date, batch number, and best before date. The

FSSAI logo should also be included. Each product has substances mixed into it, and when these standards are not met, it is considered substandard. For example, when cheaper substances are mixed with it. A case is filed with the adjudicating officer, who issues a warning for the first offense. But for subsequent offenses, the food manufacturer can be fined up to Rs 5 lakh. The unsafe category includes when harmful substances like chemicals are added to the food. These cases are taken to economic offenses court, which can impose fines up to Rs 10 lakh and sentence them to five years in jail.

Restaurants need to submit two lab reports online every year to obtain a license. Bakeries, on the other hand, are given hygienic ratings.

He added that even temples serving prasad to devotees are not exempt

from food safety checks.

Awareness of the Consumer Protection Act is crucial, as any consumer can file a case.

Dr Ritu Kapoor, a clinical dietician, advises patients to have a diverse diet. “Try to include variety in your diet as we do not know where the food is sourced from,” she said.

YG Muralidharan, founder and trustee of CREAT, said that Karnataka ranks 10th in the country for food safety, according to the Food Safety Rankings of 2021-22.

Sharada Roddammanavar, a Junior Food Analyst at the State Food Laboratory, Public Health Institute, Bengaluru, advised people to avoid street food as much as possible.

The workshop was conducted by BMS Law College in collaboration with the Consumer Rights Education Awareness Trust (CREAT).

Taxpayers' wives can't claim this benefit

The Congress party had promised to provide Rs 2,000 to every woman head of the family. According to the latest notification for the Gruha Lakshmi scheme, if the woman's husband is a taxpayer or

GST payer, she will not be eligible to claim the benefit.

To claim the benefit, applicants must apply through the Seva Sindhu portal between June 15 and July 15. After that, the names will be pro-

cessed and the beneficiaries will be identified. The money will be transferred directly to their bank accounts. The woman who needs to claim this benefit must have her name on a BPL, APL, or Antyodaya ration card.

Textbook plan: The government has clarified that it will not revise entire

textbooks this year, but may remove some 'controversial' topics and send a circular to schools asking them not to teach/use it in the exams. Sources say the education department is likely to drop lessons on RSS founder Keshav Baliram Hedgewar, right-winger Chakravathy Sulibele, and scholar

Bannanje Govindacharya.

Show hall ticket, travel free: Students who are appearing for the SSLC supplementary exams between June 12 and 19 can travel free of cost on BMTC buses to the exam centres, producing their hall tickets. **BMB**

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I, Usha Viswanath Reddy R/o No 9/1, 7th Cross, Near Rama Temple, Doddanekkundi, B'lu-560037 have changed my name to Usha Gurumurthy Reddy for all purposes.

I, Deepali Parangol D/O Ashok Sharma #15 J P nagar B'lore-560078 have changed my name to Deepali Prangol for all purposes.

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I, N Srinivas R/o Doddabanaswadi, B'lu-560043, Survey no 87 village Medahalli, Site 29 and 30 Measuring 45x45, belongs to present owner N Srinivas, declaration copy and GPA copy of original have been lost on date 20/04/2023. Complaint given to Karnataka State police, Lost Report No.582125/2023 Dt.31/05/2023

I, Meghana Balaram r/a #2, National High School School Road, V.V.Puram Bangalore - 560005 have lost the Original Documents i.e Doc.1581-17/3/98 Vol 7 pages Book No.1 of property Kalli agram Hosur. lost in transit. A police Complaint has been lodged in V.V.Puram police Station. Finders Contact- 9845241675

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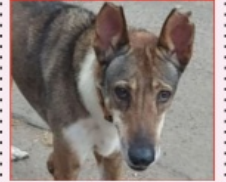
I, MUKUL KUMAR, Residing at 30, Sri Sai Nilayam 1st B Main Road, Vivekanandanagar, Kathriguppe BSK 3rd Stage, Bengaluru - 560085, have changed my name to MUKUL KUMAR T, vide affidavit dated 06/06/2023, sworn before notary DEVAKI M, Bangalore.

I, Shereyash Rathi S/O, Shashi Mohan Rathi R/o #615, 7th Main 3rd Stage 3rd Block Basaveshwara Nagar Bangalore 5600679 have changed my name to Shreyash Rathi for all purposes.

I, Venkatesha S/O, Honnegowda R/o 9 11cross Kempegowdanagar Byadarahalli Vishwaneddam Post Bangalore 560091 have changed my name to Venkatesh for all purposes.

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WOLFIE (AKA AKELA)
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collar with triangle design
+ ID tag with name
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DANGEROUS BEAUTY

Chemicals in cosmetics threaten college-age women's reproductive health



When you walk through the personal care aisles of your local store, you likely see dozens of products that promise to soften your skin, make you smell better, extend your lashes, decrease wrinkling, tame your curly hair, or even semi-permanently change the colour of your lips, hair or skin. Remember the old adage "If it seems too good to be true, it probably is"?

What many people don't realise is that many of these promises are based on chemicals that can also be hazardous to your health, including endocrine-disrupting chemicals that can interfere with fertility and reproduction, foetal growth, and infant development.

That's a big concern, because these products are heavily marketed to young women in the years before they might consider starting a family.

Recent studies have shown that college-age women use cosmetic products at higher rates than other groups. Additionally, many of these young women are unaware of the health risks from frequent use of products containing contaminants of emerging concern. And finding cleaner alternatives often means paying more.

As an epidemiologist who has fought my own fertility battles, I study exposure to endocrine-disrupting chemicals found in everyday products, such as cosmetics, shampoos, lotions and plastics. I have been working to raise awareness of the health risks to young people and encourage prudent use of cosmetics.

Unregulated and risky

According to the US Food and Drug Administration, the term "cosmetic" can include deodorants, perfumes, lotions, nail polish, shampoos and other hair products, as well as eye, lip

and face makeup.

This is important to know, because unless these products are used to treat a condition, such as dandruff or perspiration, they are not federally regulated in the same way drugs are. That leaves it up to cosmetic companies to decide how to communicate product safety.

Personal care products contain many types of chemicals that manufacturers add for specific purposes, including some that can interfere with or disrupt the normal functioning of the endocrine system. For example, they commonly add UV filters like oxybenzone to protect skin from sun damage, phthalates to enhance fragrance, parabens and triclosan for their antimicrobial properties, and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, to enhance durability.

However, not all of these chemicals are present in all products, so figuring out how to avoid exposure can be complicated. For example, in a 2021 review of studies detecting endocrine-disrupting chemicals in daily-use cosmetic products, phthalates were present in perfumes, shower gels, shampoo and nail polish. Parabens were detected in lotions, shampoos, body wash, face cleansers and lipstick. Triclosan was detected in toothpastes, soaps and other cleansers. UV filters were present in sunscreens, lotions, toothpaste, and lipstick.

Many of these chemicals can co-occur in products, putting consumers at risk of exposure to multiple chemicals at once, and sometimes without warning, as labels do not always list endocrine-disrupting chemicals among the ingredients.

Chemical chaos

As you rub cosmetic products onto your skin, breathe in their scent or use them to brush your teeth, the chemi-

cals found within can travel through your body, targeting your endocrine, nervous and cardiovascular systems.

When these chemicals are endocrine disruptors, such as phthalates, parabens, triclosan and PFAS, they can mimic naturally produced hormones or block hormone receptors. Their presence can result in abnormal hormone production, secretion or transport throughout the body.

These hormonal changes can lead to reproductive problems, including poor sperm quality, miscarriage and endometriosis. They can also lead to thyroid disruption and abnormal growth and development.

Neurological conditions such as attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), cognitive impairment and depression have also been linked to chemicals added to cosmetic products. So have cardiovascular issues such as high blood pressure, insulin resistance and coronary heart disease.

The level of risk is often difficult to measure and depends in part on the amount of exposure, the type of chemical and how the chemical interacts with the endocrine system. One study of women ages 18-44 in Utah and California found increased exposure to a common phthalate was associated with twice the odds of developing endometriosis. In a meta-analysis of pregnant women with occupational exposure to endocrine-disrupting chemicals, researchers calculated a 25% increase in the odds of low birth weight.

Bans coming up

Our study of college-age females found that, on average, young women use eight different personal care products each day that can contain endocrine-disrupting chemicals, but some report as many as 17. This is concerning, as the number of prod-

ucts people use has been linked to higher exposure to endocrine-disrupting chemicals. Also, 80% of the women we surveyed did not know whether their cosmetic products contained harmful chemicals.

Studies have found significantly higher exposure to phthalates and other chemicals among adolescent girls who wore foundation, blush and mascara than among those who did not. One found that when adolescent girls stopped using products containing endocrine-disrupting chemicals, the concentrations in their urine dropped by as much as 45%.

The European Union has led the way on regulating the use of these chemicals in cosmetic products, with U.S. policies generally lagging behind, but that's changing. Washington state re-

cently passed legislation that bans PFAS, lead, phthalates, formaldehyde and other harmful chemicals starting in 2025 and creates new incentives for companies to produce safer products. New York banned mercury, a neurotoxin that can be used as a skin lightener, effective June 1, 2023. California, Minnesota and Maine also have broad restrictions on chemical additives in cosmetics.

While many cosmetic companies offer alternative products without endocrine-disrupting chemicals, they tend to cost more, which can put safer products out of reach of young people. I believe a ban on the use of harmful chemicals in cosmetic products would be the most equitable means for reducing exposure.

Leslie Hart,
College of Charleston,
The Conversation

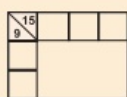
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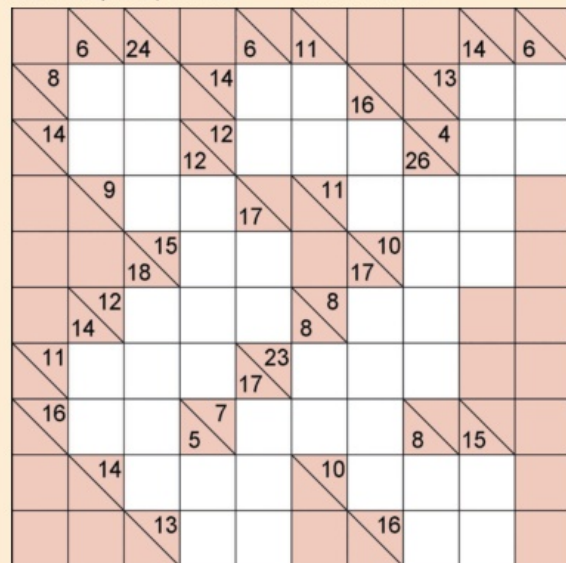
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

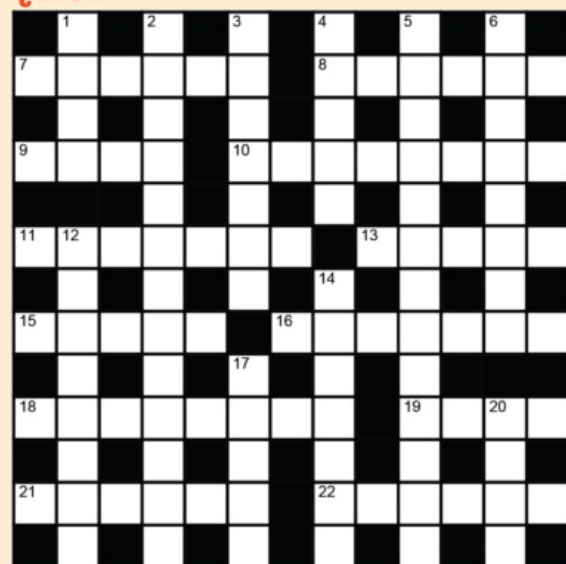


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

- 7 Mummify (6)
- 8 Acute shortage (6)
- 9 Use soap and water? (4)
- 10 Employed, engaged or hired (8)
- 11 Free (2,5)
- 13 Nile dam site (5)
- 15 Dogma (5)
- 16 Gastronome (7)
- 18 A single dot as punctuation (4,4)
- 19 Heavy blunt weapon (4)
- 21 Karnataka lake home to a bird sanctuary (6)
- 22 Stank (6)

DOWN

- 1 Jane Austen heroine (4)
- 2 Scheming, cunning and amoral (13)
- 3 Offence, sense of slight or injury (7)
- 4 Prepares for publication (5)
- 5 Frantic from fright (5-8)
- 6 Cheapest shipboard accommodation (8)
- 12 Roundabout, indirect or crooked (8)
- 14 Master of ceremonies (7)
- 17 Blot (5)
- 20 Made haste (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: W EQUALS U
TO'P KPFS OU NUMJ RUM
PULKIUVS KQPK; FQO SUW
CFXK OU VU TP PCUN WB.



Linemaro

The more love I give you
the more I have.
Both are infinite



Mindchow

Moral indignation is
jealousy with a halo



Joke of the day

A tribe of cannibals
caught a missionary
and ate him. They were
all violently sick
afterwards.
Moral: You can't keep a
good man down

Loop

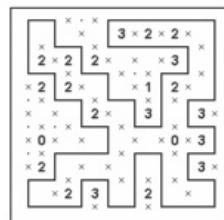
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

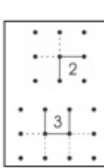
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) - Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

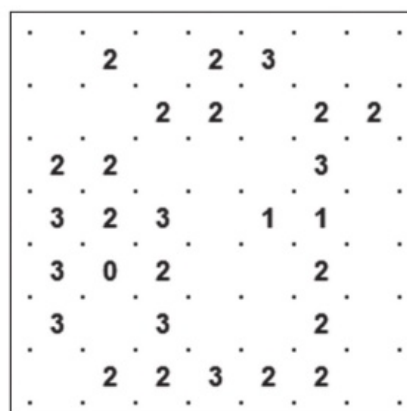
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



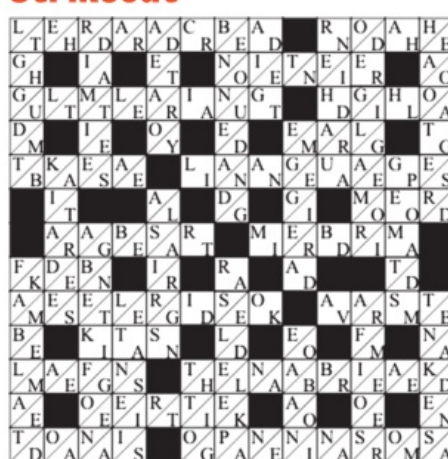
(Fig A)



(Fig B)
Not Allowed



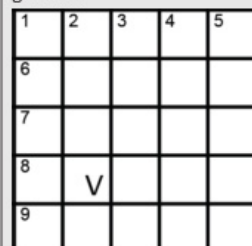
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

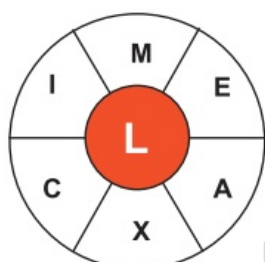
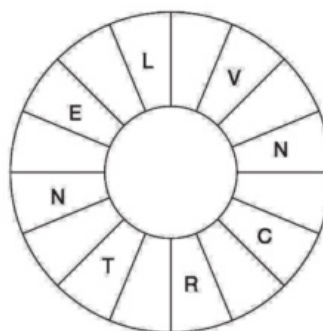
- 1 GN Aug; 6 Arian;
- 7 Deems; 8 Suave;
- 9 By Ill

DOWN

- 1 Bundu; 2 Naive;
- 3 I'm leg; 4 A rale;
- 5 Say GS

Mensapuzzle

Find the starting point and fill in the blanks to find a familiar phrase (6, 6, 4) reading clockwise. Only alternate letters are shown.



Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

14 Average; 16 Good; 18 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge



To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ = 15

2 4 4 5

Medium

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ = 5

1 2 2 5

Hard

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ = 10

2 5 6 3

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Backpack strap is missing. 2. Briefcase handle is missing. 3. Leg is moved. 4. Nose is different. 5. Girl's arm is not showing. 6. Door is wider.

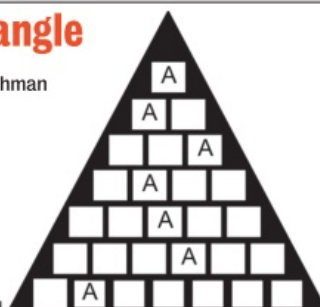
Riddler

A killer clad in black and white. Big, not sad, when blue. Great and white inspired spite, And gray's the other hue. What am I?

Alpha triangle

- 1 Blood group
- 2 Music director Rahman
- 3 History division
- 4 Challenge
- 5 Listened to
- 6 Messenger
- 7 Medieval weapon

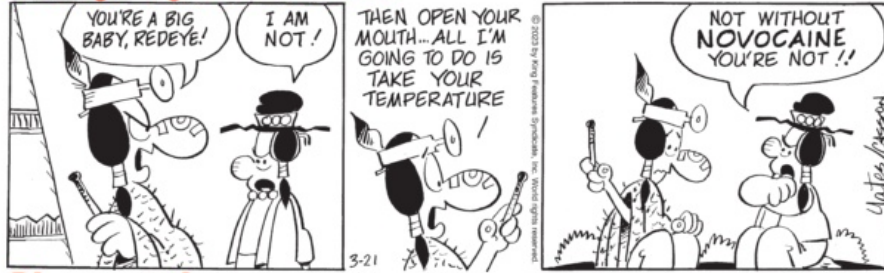
Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be



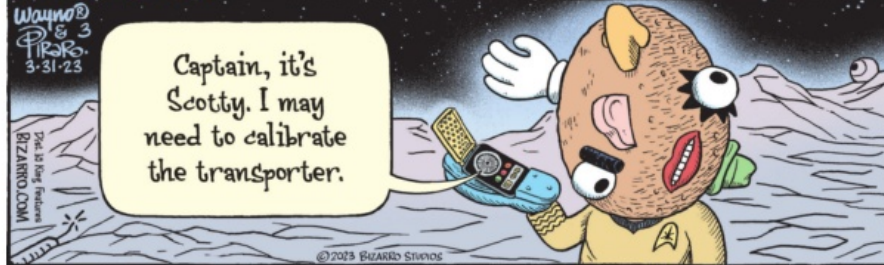
made at each step answering to the clue given.

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson



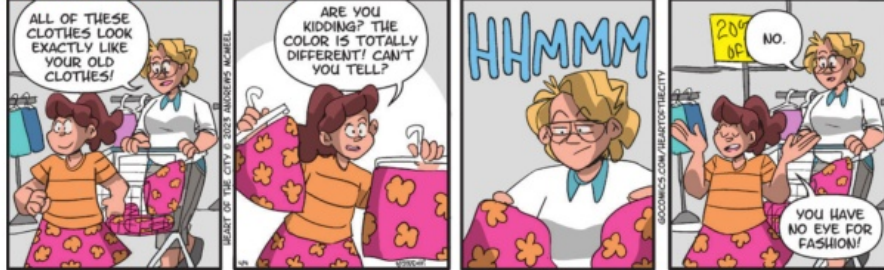
Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil



Hart of the city



Crankshaft



Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 - Apr 20

Today, you are blessed by the moon, which may give you peace of mind. Externally, you may face some work-related stress, but your inner senses may be calm and cool, which may help you balance everything. You may enjoy every moment in work and domestic life. Some new sources of income may open up, which may help you boost your savings.



Leo Jul 24 - Aug 23

Today, situations are under control. You may be able to come out of the past few days' messy situation. You may work with patience, which may reflect in your way of working. You may plan for an outing. Students may have a good focus on their goals. Singles may find their love with the help of friends or relatives.



Sagittarius Nov 23 - Dec 22

Today, you may be dissatisfied and have some sort of detachment from your responsibilities, which may confuse you. You may plan hypothetically for your projects. You are advised to be practical in your work to complete it on time. You may also take care of your parents. It is advised to postpone migrating somewhere for a few days. You should wait for a while before taking action.



Taurus Apr 21 - May 20

You may feel dull today. You may face some chronic health issues. You are likely to be a victim of sleeplessness, which might make you arrogant. Your arrogance may affect your domestic harmony. Your profits may convert into losses. You are advised to think twice before doing any type of financial transaction.



Virgo Aug 24 - Sep 23

Today, you may feel unhappy. You may be impatient and a victim of mood swings, which may reflect in your domestic life harmony. You are advised to avoid arrogance at work; otherwise, you may create hidden enemies around you. You are advised to avoid rushing while driving.



Capricorn Dec 23 - Jan 20

Today, you may be enthusiastic and more focused, which may speed up your postponed projects. Your siblings may help you start a new project, which may bring you profit in the near future. You may expect some short trips related to your family issues. Job seekers may hear good news in terms of a new job.



Gemini May 21 - Jun 21

Today, you may feel energetic. Your losses may convert into profit, which may increase your business growth and liquidity. With the help of your subordinates, you may be able to make some difficult decisions in the business. Your performance at work may be praised by your seniors. You may also expect to get incentives, which may increase your savings.



Libra Sep 24 - Oct 22

Today, you may be happy. You may spread happiness around you. You may feel harmony in your personal life and enjoy some romantic moments with your spouse. Your family may support you in making important decisions. You may also make some important decisions in your professional life. You may expect new ventures or partnerships in business.



Aquarius Jan 21 - Feb 19

Today, you may be able to control your expenditure on worthless things, which may improve your financial health. You may be more creative today and use your creativity to decorate your office or home, which may enhance your social status. Love birds may likely receive some support from their family members to maintain their relationship status. Students may hear good news in terms of academics.



Cancer Jun 22 - July 23

Today, you may be busy at work. Your wisdom may help you make the right decisions, which may increase your business. You are likely to get a big order, which may expand your work. You may utilise your creativity to renovate your home or office, which may improve your social status. You may also invest in some creative assets.



Scorpio Oct 23 - Nov 22

Today, the positive moon may make you happy. You may use your patience at work. Your performance may be good in your job, and you may receive incentives in terms of rewards. Health-related issues of family members will be resolved now. Job aspirants are likely to get a good job. Love birds may enjoy their quality time.



Pisces Feb 20 - Mar 20

Today, you may help needy people, which will increase your reputation in society. You might implement innovation into your work, which may boost your business. Positive results will make you happy. Love birds may plan for an outing or an adventurous tour.



KIDZONE



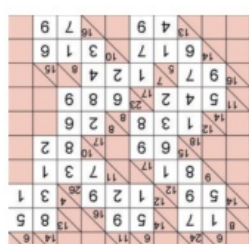
Dhaniya B,
10 Years,
Maruthi
Vidyalaya
School



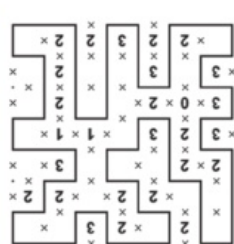
Kunalika E,
8 Years,
Amara
Jyothi
Public
School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

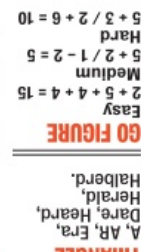
SOLUTIONS



KAKURO



LOOP



ALPHA



SUDOKU



MENSA PUZZLE



QUICK



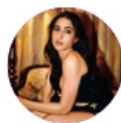
STRIKE OUT



QUOTE UNQUOTE



RIDDLER



Game of love Sara Ali Khan recently was asked about the possibility of marrying a cricketer. Sara told the news channel that for her, profession doesn't matter. According to her, she would marry someone with whom she matches on a mental and intellectual level

Grand fireworks and a 'gentlemanly' act

Find out why a video of trailer launch of film starring Kriti and Prabhas is going viral

Kriti Sanon and Prabhas launched the final trailer of 'Adipurush' as the film nears release. The grand trailer launch event took place in Tirupati on Tuesday evening. The lead actors were present with director Om Raut and producer Bhushan Kumar. While Prabhas looked dapper in a white kurta, Kriti looked mesmerising in a black saree. As per a report, just the fireworks used in the event cost Rs 50 lakh and the overall cost of the event was equivalent to Kriti's fees for the film which is Rs 3 crore. Now a video of Prabhas and Kriti at the trailer launch has gone viral.

Prabhas is seen calling Kriti to come and stand with him and the director. He holds her hand and brings her forward. But while standing besides one another, he pulled himself back from holding Kriti from the waist and put his hand in his pocket instead. This 'gentleman' gesture of his has won netizens. Meanwhile,

Kriti debunked a myth about Prabhas at the trailer launch that he doesn't talk much. She said, "I was told that Prabhas does not talk. It is not true. He actually talks a lot. He is genuinely a darling who is very warm, sweet, hard-working, and a big foodie."

The two actors are rumoured to be dating but the duo have maintained that they're just co-stars and good friends. It started with a prank played by Varun Dhawan on a reality show.

—ETimes



Ballet is hard work

Suhana Khan's debut project hasn't even released but the star kid is already getting a lot of limelight and has a huge fan following of her own! Fans love to see her pictures on social media and also how Suhana conducts herself publicly. She also sometimes shares an update about her life on social media. The girl has been working hard to train herself in every aspect as she is set to make her debut. Recently, Suhana gave fans a glimpse into her feet after her ballerina training session. She shared a picture of her feet wearing ballerina shoes and she wrote, "Ow" with a crying face emoji.

Suhana's debut venture is 'The Archies' created by Zoya Akhtar.

—ETimes



Good job

For someone who's managed to impress the audience with good work, Taapsee Pannu thinks that a lot of times her performance is taken for granted.

The actress feels this, every time she comes across comments like - once again Taapsee has done a good job. She elaborates: "I am grateful to people who appreciate my work. But when people say things like - once again she did a good job - they really have no idea how much mental stress I go through to be consistent in an industry where things change every few months. The choices of people, the flavour of the season, the kind of films people watch, changes every few months. So, it is very difficult for someone to keep up the level of their performance. It takes a lot of efforts to live up to the expectations and I work hard."

—Onkar Kulkarni, ETimes



SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

To preserve Ayurveda

Madhusudhan, an Ayurvedic doctor from Kyathanahalli, has made Madhurakaavya, a movie to showcase the importance of ayurveda. Madhurakaavya's teaser was released on Tuesday at Renukamba Preview Theater.

"I am an Ayurvedic doctor practising at Kyathanahalli. My movie showcases the tussle between Ayurvedic and Allopathic doctors. There were not many allopathy hos-

pitals 60 years ago in the state. Ayurveda treatment was popular and Ayurvedic doctors were not greedy for money. I made this movie to emphasise on the need to preserve Ayurveda," said Madhusudhan.

Madhusudhan debuts as a hero and director in Sandalwood with this movie that has no heroine. Rajkumar Naik plays the villain while Yashoda plays the mother in this movie.

"I play an Ayurvedic doctor who treats patients without expecting monetary benefits and fights against those who exploit ayurvedic doc-



tors. The film also highlights the attachment between a mother and son and conveys a message to society," he said. The movie was shot at Udupi, Mangaluru, Sirsi and others. Sateesh Maurya, who was assistant to music director Hamsalekha for seven years, debuts as a music director with this movie.

New lingo

All these years, cinema-goers have seen Hindi, Tamil, Telugu movies being dubbed in Kannada. Now, a Gujarati movie is being dubbed into Kannada and is set to be released in Karnataka next month. The Gujarati film Var Padharavo Savdhan is titled Rayaru Bandaru Mavana Manege in Kannada.

Rayaru Bandaru Mavana Manege are the words in a song written by KS Narasimha Swamy. The song is about a son-in-law visiting his father-in-law's house to see his wife.

According to reliable sources, Var Padharavo Savdhan is about a youth who has to settle down at his father-in-law's house after marriage. Manjunath Gowda also known as Jack Manju has made

arrangements to screen Rayaru Bandaru Mavana Manege at more than 120 screens across Karnataka through Shalini Arts banner.

Vipul Sharma has directed the movie, while Shailesh Dhameliya, Anil Sanghvi, and Bharat Mistry have bankrolled it along with co-producer Ashaben Vikram Desai.

Tushar Sadhu, Kinjal Rajpriya, Ragi Jani, Karmini Panchal, Prashant Barot, Jay Pandya, Rishabh Thakor, and Rhytham Rajyaguru are the cast.

